

REMARKS*Provisional Election – With Traverse*

Applicant provisionally elects, *with traverse*, Group I (Claims 1-13). In view of the present traversal, Applicant respectfully declines to cancel claims 14-23 (Group II). Moreover, Applicant will respectfully object to any such cancellation by the Patent Office. However, any such cancellation should be understood as being without prejudice or disclaimer to the Applicant, with the subject matter of the non-elected claims available to be pursued in a divisional patent application, which shall enjoy all rights and benefits of 35 U.S.C. §121.

Grounds for Traversal of Restriction Requirement

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 constitutes a linking claim, which, *must* be examined with the provisionally elected Group I and, if allowable, requires rejoinder of Group II. *See* MPEP §§ 809, 809.03 and 809.04. Pursuant to MPEP § 809.03, a linking claim includes, “a claim to ‘means’ for practicing a process linking proper apparatus and process claims.” Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 recites means for detecting wear of an insulating layer and thereby links the apparatus claims of Group I with the process claims of Group II. Claim 11 has full support from the originally filed specification and as such, if allowable, renders any restriction between Groups I and II improper.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 371-2117 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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4/5/06

By

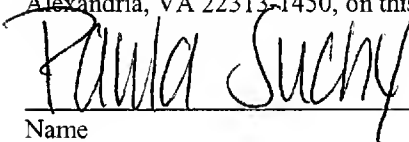


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5 day of April, 2006.

Name



Signature

